

Application No.: 10/619,416
Examiner: Carl D. PRICE
Group Art Unit: 3749

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2-5 amended to improve the clarity of the claimed subject matter and to bring the claims into conformity with U.S. practice and format, and to place the application fully in condition for allowance. All of the amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure of this application and therefore do not constitute the introduction of any new matter into this case. The original Abstract has been amended to provide a more concise summary of the disclosure in accordance with U.S. practice format

Applicant has not yet received an indication from the Examiner as to the acceptability of the originally filed drawings and requests such indication in the next Official Action, in the absence of which it is assumed that the original drawings are acceptable.

Claims 2-5 remain pending upon entry of the amendments to the claims above.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the claims have been amended to place same in full accord with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 3, which depends from allowable claim 2, is believed to be in condition for allowance as well.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph due to numerous informalities. Claim 1 has been canceled and substantively incorporated into new independent claim 2. Pending claims 2-5 have been amended to place same in full

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compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed correction of the claims. In view of the amendments to the claims, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 and 3 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created Doctrine of Double Patenting over claims 1 and 7 of co-pending application U.S. Serial No. 10/671,831. Claim 1 has been canceled, and claim 3 depends from new independent claim 2, which was indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Hence, Applicant most respectfully requests reconsideration with regard to the rejection of dependent claim 3 under double patenting. It is believed that since claim 2, from which claim 3 depends from, is in condition for allowance, claim 3 is allowable, and overcomes the double patenting rejection.

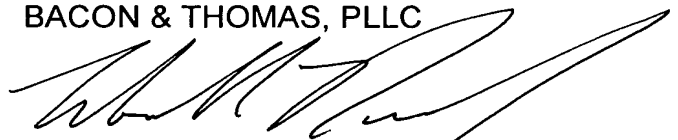
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In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application which can be resolved by a telephone call or facsimile communication to Applicant's Attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile at the numbers provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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